

# News Release



Children's Hospice Association Scotland  
Sharing the Caring

**For Immediate Use  
17 January 2011**

## **Jo Swinson Shows Support for Green Charity Collections**

MP Jo Swinson will be donating clothes to charity on Friday 21 January at 11am to launch a new environmental clothes collection scheme in East Dunbartonshire in aid of Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) run by Clothes Aid.

The new collections will drastically reduce the number of plastic bags Clothes Aid currently distributes to collect clothes, by issuing calendars to households throughout East Dunbartonshire highlighting when their monthly collections will take place. To donate to CHAS, people can simply fill a CHAS Clothes Aid bag or their own plastic bag (labelled for CHAS) with unwanted clothing and place it outside their door on the designated collection day.

Clothing donated to Clothes Aid saves energy by extending a garment's life and preventing good quality items ending up in landfill which takes up much-needed space and emits dangerous greenhouse gases as it degrades. Stylish Scots bin over 2000\* tonnes of textiles every year which could be given to Clothes Aid to raise much-needed funds for CHAS.

Clothes Aid's new calendar scheme is an excellent way for East Dunbartonshire residents to safely donate unwanted items to help Scottish children with life-shortening conditions. Jo Swinson regularly campaigns for more government action over bogus collectors and she recently attended a Parliament debate in support of this issue.

Jo Swinson said, "These new collections have been developed by Clothes Aid to dramatically reduce its environmental footprint. Instead of delivering thousands of plastic bags for only one specific collection, residents can now use the new calendars to quickly and efficiently see when they can donate each month, whilst being reassured that all the clothes will benefit CHAS."

Clothes Aid Business Manager Michael Lomotey said, "We are thrilled to be able to make our collections even greener and hope the people of East Dunbartonshire will clear out clothes to support CHAS. Last year Clothes Aid raised £100,000 for CHAS but we're hoping to smash this target with the support of the Scottish public and raise £150,000 in 2011. Clothes Aid stops unwanted clothes from ending up in landfill and damaging the environment by collecting them for reuse."

CHAS Retail Manager Pauline Tanbini said, "The support CHAS has received from Clothes Aid collections over the past year has been tremendous. I am sure the new calendars will make it an even easier and greener way for the Scottish public to donate items on a date that is most suitable for them."

Ends

**For further information please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

**Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS)** is a charity that provides the only hospice services in Scotland for children and young people with life-shortening conditions.

CHAS runs two children's hospices, Rachel House in Kinross and Robin House in Balloch. The hospices support the whole family by offering short planned breaks, emergency support, end of life care and a range of bereavement services.

CHAS also provides a home care service, called CHAS at Home, staffed from both hospices and with a dedicated team in Inverness. The service offers care to families in their own homes when they need it most.

CHAS supports over 250 families, as well as a significant number of families who receive bereavement support. The services are funded mainly through the generosity of the many supporters who help raise over £6 million needed each year to provide these vital hospice services.

Visit CHAS at [www.chas.org.uk](http://www.chas.org.uk)

**Clothes Aid:**

1. Clothes Aid has raised over £3.4 million for its charity partners.
2. Clothes Aid raises funds for a number of both regional and national children's and hospital charities, incl. Make-A-Wish Foundation® UK, NSPCC, Noah's Ark Appeal, Papworth Hospital and Yorkshire Cancer Centre.
3. \*According to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency in 2007 2,075 tonnes of household textiles was thrown into landfill.